



# Public Health & Environmental Planning:

A Strong Case for Collaboration

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## What is MARC?

- Regional council of governments
- Federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
- 9 counties, 119 municipalities

## Air Quality Monitoring Stations



Air Quality Maintenance Area



## COUNCIL AIR QUALITY PROGRAM



# Why focus on Ozone?

- Designated as a Criteria Pollutant by EPA
- Chemically identical to upper-level ozone, BUT
- At ground level, is a man-made pollutant
- Can trigger breathing problems, especially in those who have asthma, emphysema, or other respiratory conditions



# Ozone Basics – When & Where?

- Ozone not emitted directly – chemical reaction involving volatile organic compounds (VOC) and nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>)
- VOCs, NO<sub>x</sub> come from cars, trucks, small businesses, utilities & large industry
- Ground Level Ozone concentrations typically highest on warm, sunny days
  - Time and Distance matter

# Clean Air Action Plan

- Developed in 2004
- Comprehensive voluntary plan for reducing emissions before EPA requires it
- Targets both stationary and mobile sources
- Short-, intermediate- and long-term measures

# Strategies

- Power plant emission reductions
- Retrofits and replacement of Diesel engines
- Truck Stop Electrification
- Idling reduction programs
- Locomotive emissions controls technologies
- Public education ozone programs
- Rideshare
- Targeted outreach to unregulated emitters and fleets



# Strategies (cont.)

- Sustainability
  - Adopt land use policies to protect air quality
  - Increase tree planting and preserve green space
  - Continue the Smart Moves regional transit plan



# 2011 Update and Expansion of Sustainability

- Promote options that are pedestrian, bike and transit friendly for communities
- Encourage native and sustainable landscaping and green infrastructure
- Enable local government support for green buildings, sustainable site design and improved building codes
- Seek and promote energy-efficiency incentives for homeowners and renters

# 2018 Strategies

## Transportation Connectivity

- Expand network of mobility hubs
- Increase bike facilities near mobility hubs
- Increase number of transit riders
- Increase job access

## Transportation Technology

- Increase the use of electric vehicles
- Encourage deployment of Autonomous, Connected, Electric and Shared Vehicles
- Expand traffic signal coordination

## Public Engagement

- Deploy smart kiosks in high-capacity transit areas
- Publicize the region's traffic signal coordination efforts
- Increase public Education opportunities for sustainability initiatives

# Partnerships



# Public Education

- SkyCast!
- Finding creative ways to increase reach out:
  - Emissions testing at HHW events
  - Kansas City Corporate Challenge
  - Rideshare and transit providers
- Proactive engagement of smaller communities
- Air Quality Workplace Partnership
- Regional Head Start Programs

# Public Health Partners

- Healthy Home Program
- Asthma Education Programs
- County Health Departments
  - Metric Tracking and Information Sharing
- PEHSU – Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit
- MOHAKCA – Metropolitan Official Health Agencies of the Kansas City Area